

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 STR-08

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN ECON EG

SUBJ: PLANNING: GOE READIES THE INTERIM (1974-5) PLAN

1. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, ISMAIL SABRY ABDALLAH, WILL PRESENT TO PRESIDENT SADAT THREE ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD JULY 1, 1974-DECEMBER 31, 1975 THE "ECONOMIC CROSSING" PLAN WHICH WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE FIVE YEAR PLAN 1976-81.

2. ONE OF THE PLANS IS AN AMALGAMATION OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE VARIOUS AGENCIES OF THE GOE, AND THE OTHER TWO ARE ALTERNATIVES PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY. THEY DO NOT DIFFER IN TERMS OF AIMS, GOALS OR ORDER OF PRIORITY, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE TOTAL VOLUME OF INVESTMENT AND APPROPRIATIONS ALLOTTED TO THE AGENCIES INVOLVED.

3. AS SOON AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HEGAZY RETURNS FROM EUROPE, MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD WITH THE HIGHER ECONOMIC

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AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THE CABINET TO DISCUSS THE

ISSUES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SADAT, WHO IS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINAL DECISION.

4. COMMENT: THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF COORDINATING THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS OF THE GOE'S MANIFOLD AGENCIES ON EGYPT'S LIMITED RESOURCES IS REFLECTED IN THE ABOVE. WHILE IT IS PERHPAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT EACH ORGANIZATION CONSIDERS ITS OWN ACTIVITIES AS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE, THE ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF COHESIVE PLANNING IS A HINDRANCE TO DEVELOPMENT

IN GENERAL, AND THE EFFECTIVE USE OF TIME IN PARTICULAR. DECISIONS CAN ONLY BE TAKEN AT THE VERY TOP, AND THEN ONLY AFTER LONG DEBATE.

5. AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE PROBLEM FACING THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING IS GIVEN IN THE DATE RELEASED A SHORT TIME AGO BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE ON THE ANTICIPATED TRADE LEVELS DURING THE TRANSITIONS PERIOD (1973 DATA IN PAREN); TOTAL TRADE LE 2.4 BILLION (1.02) IMPORTS 1.8 BILLION (622 MILLION) EXPORTS 600 MILLION (396); TRADE DEFICIT 1.2 BILLION (226 MILLION). WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFF HOW FIGURES SUCH

MAGNITUDE HAD BEEN DEVELOPED, AN UNDERSECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE REPLIED THAT IMPORTS ARE WHAT IS WANTED AND EXPORTS ARE WHAT IS HOPED FOR, BOTH REFLECTING ANTICIPATED RISES IN WORLD PRICES. WHEN ASKED HOW SUCH AN ENORMOUS DEFICIT WAS TO BE COVERED, HE SAID "WE ARE COUNTING ON OUR FRIENDS."
EILTS

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